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Good Government Problems.

LIVE QUESTIONS.

A Series of Articles Contributed by Advanced Thinkers.

FUNDAMENTAL LIVE QUESTIONS.

A "live question" presents an idea or theory concerning things essential to social existence which may be discussed pro and con. It is so far only as it concerns actual life is it a live question. Life is what we feel it to be—a sentient something with a purpose, an activity moving toward an end. Human life we recognize as an incarnate purpose and will, reaching toward an ideal end in mental development and character.

Live questions concern liberty. They arise because human life requires a certain freedom in reaching its goal of development or end, and because this freedom in society is interfered with by natural obstacles and other human wills. From these conditions arise social friction, opposition, effort, enterprise, achievement, the ideal of liberty, and out of all these rights and duties. The purpose of life, in its instinct for greater freedom, demands the removal of obstacles, for the strength to overcome them, or the transcendent vision and superior force to harmonize them.

Fundamental live questions are those which include the end as well as the present conditions of existence. They do not stop with surfaces. They do not heed the boundaries of individual selfishness. They do not limit themselves to those agitations which present questions merely of more wages, merely of more capi-

W. G. TODD.

talistic power in exploitation, merely of partisan domination in social legislation, merely of sectarian supremacy in moral and spiritual development. They ask first of all, What is the true end and aim of life? and then seek to present conditions which may enable lives to attain to that end.

This was the aim of our forefathers in defining their views, as they sought to establish and organize the American republic. In seeking for those rights which were, by the very nature of man, inalienable, they were obliged to consider the end and aim of his life, and they stated it in our celebrated Declaration of American Independence. Man's chief right, they emphasized as the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Life was the acting subject, liberty the required condition, happiness the end.

But time changes even our view of the ends of life, and consequently our statement of fundamental live questions. Since the French philosophers there have come Darwin and Haeckel. Since the mental atmosphere out of which were evolved our Declaration of Independence and the French "bill of rights"—two documents which show the same psychic parentage—there has surrounded us the mental atmosphere of evolution, and philosophers now talk of the rights of man to his development, the rights of man in growth and the duties of society in removing obstructions to that growth.

Social theories must adapt themselves to this change. The ages are not stationary. The live questions of today must use the language of the last decade of the nineteenth century. They must base their arguments on its conclusions. The end of man is not happiness. It is development, growth, individual evolution, and the liberty at present demanded is liberation from that social economic bondage which curtails, and even threatens to destroy, individual freedom and development. In this new relation the word "liberty" attains to its true meaning. It is no longer capriciousness, no longer a mere individual impulse. It is philosophical in its bearing and relations. It includes duties as well as rights.

Does any one doubt the philosophical change or the new social requirements? Let him ask, What is happiness? Is it not more than animal gratification? If more, what more? Happiness we may define as the sensation we feel when vital forces within us move in harmony to their legitimate ends in expression. It is the sense which accompanies the process toward the end and not the end in itself. The delightful sensation of harmony in music, as compared with the mere noise of one monotonously repeated note, illustrates the sensation of happiness. The individual man is an organic whole. Each faculty and organ has its note potentially attuned to every other. They can play tunes of harmony or they can make only a discordant noise. The bounding child represents organic physical harmony. The enjoyment of the man is the harmony of the physical and the mental. The change from childhood to adult years reveals a change in the perception of life's ends. Harmony is our consciousness of the union of sounds to an end—music. Happiness is our consciousness of the union of vital forces to an end—development. Growth is the true end of man; happiness, the accompaniment.

But not only is individual man an organic whole; society is the same—that is, normal society. There is social happiness as well as individual happiness, and both come by the same means and are obedient to the same law. The individual cannot stand alone. Nine-tenths of himself is submerged in the social organism. The most of himself is keyed to the vibrations of social conditions, and scarcely a note can be independently struck that is not painful. Most men are not really happy. Hard work is the waters of Lethe they drink to dull the haunting visions of their real selves. What means social unrest? It is the social discord arising from individual selfishness. It is the dominating influence of social warfare in predatory trade in place of social co-operation in production and distribution.

What can harmonize social forces and neutralize the power of selfishness? Plainly a clearer perception of the ends of life, the perception that ends are higher and more authoritative in their demands than means, the perception of true social ends in place of material means to an end, which so often misrepresent themselves to their possessor as ends. The unrest and unhappiness of the world are the source of social discord among economic forces. No one is happy in [illegible] of the word. The curse of [illegible] and the slain are paired with noise. The rich man trembles before the poor man's gestures of pain. Both classes waste their energies. Both have disobeyed the laws of harmony. Both have naturally been impelled to exercise their strength, but the conditions which surrounded them were different, and the philosophy of neither was broad enough to enable him to comprehend the position of the other or to dream that together they could shape the conditions of life to meet its ends and bring happiness to both. When the world perceives the true social end of man in development, then will this perception disarm selfish impulse and social forces gradually fall into harmony to that tune of order which "the morning stars sang together," and which unsentient, material forces have continued to sing to this day.

W. G. TODD.

Kansas City, Kan.

THE EARTH CORNERED.

We have heard much of late years of corners in most all of the commodities of life, but the announcement by a serious and competent writer that the earth is cornered is a sensational statement that ought to challenge the "Sensous Scuity" and prolonged meditation of all. Mr. J. J. McCann of St. Louis has published a book with the above name, and he proceeds to prove that his seemingly romantic title is a sad and sober fact. He makes his appeal to statistics and other facts, and I shall subjoin a few of them, for they are pertinent and present one of the gravest problems of the age.

There are in the United States 56,000,000 landless people. These are compelled week by week to pay for the privilege of living on the earth, a condition that is as unnatural as if they should pay for breathing the air or basking in the sunshine. And yet our land area is not overpopulated. It could support 20 times as many people in plenty. On the one hand we have untilled land, on the other idle people who are willing to work. With this state of affairs the following statement, taken at random from the book, is significant:

"All wealth comes from and all work is done on land only, and it is the primary bank of all riches and the sole employer of all labor." Again, we are brought face to face with the fact that of the 71,000,000 souls in the country 10,000,000 are comfortable, in pinching frugality and settled despondency are 50,000,000, and 11,000,000 very poor and destitute.

In 1886 there were 1,449 homicides in this country. For 11 months in 1895 there were 7,900. All other crimes increased with even a greater ratio and insanity is rapidly multiplying.

Of the upward of 3,000 families assisted by the Provident association in St. Louis in 1895 over 70 per cent wanted work and could not get it.

These are sad chronicles, but every one wants the truth. The facts must be faced manfully, as they furnish the basis of solution. There are in certain quarters feeble and fruitless attempts to overlook the situation, but this spirit is manifestly unfair and puerile and deserves the pity of all sensible men.

There are some grave wrongs, and we can and must right them. Those who refuse to come to the light give evidence that they are afraid of investigation. The times are past for dodging real issues or for wholesale denunciation, but every day is ripe for earnest, clear and forcible presentation of fact and argument.

"The Earth Cornered" is a thought provoking and fact arraying book.

J. W. CALDWELL.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER ON MONEY.

The question of bimetallism was discussed in the house of commons recently, and during the discussion, as reported in the London Standard of March 18, the chancellor of the exchequer said, among other things:

"I have no sympathy with the confidence with which some persons—not always the best informed persons—lay down the law on one side and the other in this matter. You may hear monometallists speak of bimetallists as if they must necessarily be lunatics or idiots, and as if the whole theory which they hold must be so impossible and wrong that it is useless to argue against it. On the other hand, you may hear bimetallists who cannot believe that any one can oppose their favorite theory, except on the ground of some selfish interest in connection with the existing system of currency in Great Britain."

These are weighty and wise words and should cause extremists to consider their own methods. We have a good illustration of the chancellor's words in the appropriation of the phrase "sound money" by the monometallists. They commit the common folly in debate of assuming the very question in dispute. Every serious man is in some doubt as to what sound money is. Every thoughtful man wants sound money. It is not a question of sound or unsound money that is in debate, for all want sound money. It is simply the question, "What is sound money?"

Civil Service Progress.

Prior to the administration of President Arthur 14,000 government employees held their positions by a system of merit under civil service regulations. This number was increased several hundred under Mr. Arthur, and during Mr. Cleveland's first administration 7,259 more were placed beyond the whims of spoilsmen. Mr. Harrison improved upon the work of his predecessor by adding 8,690 others to the merit list. President Cleveland, during the first three years of his second administration has surpassed all precedents by placing 12,740 more beyond the patronage of successful politicians. With 56,000 employees of the government now serving under the merit system the complete triumph of civil service reform seems assured in the near future. It is reported in official circles that President Cleveland has decided to extend the operations of the civil service law to the 70,000 fourth class postmasters. The Civil Service Reform league is composed of strong and influential men, and it is hoped that the facts and arguments they have submitted to Mr. Cleveland will induce him to further honor his administration by placing all employees of the post office department beyond the power of the office broker-age system.

Civil service reformers also find great comfort and encouragement in the fact that a recent decision of the court of appeals of New York declares that "appointments and promotions in the civil service of the state and of all the civil divisions thereof, including cities and villages, should be made according to merit and fitness, to be ascertained, so far as practicable, by examinations, which, so far as practicable, should be competitive." Civil service reform is just, and on this account it will eventually become operative in the administration of all states and cities.

Simplified Philosophy.

Mr. W. G. Todd's article on "Fundamental Live Questions" is vigorous, and has the Emersonian ring. He presupposes that his readers are skilled in the primer of philosophy. Most men, says Emerson, are poets, and he might have said philosophers, for all men try to reason and usually succeed in doing so, at least to their own satisfaction. Now it has often occurred to us that the basal facts of philosophy are few and simple and that to state them would be a matter of interest to all inquirers after truth. Here are a few statements to which the attention of the serious is called:

First.—There is being—myself and my environment.

Second.—I influence my environment and am influenced by it.

Third.—I am aware of myself—self conscious—and of not self.

Fourth.—This consciousness is of three kinds—(a) pleasurable, (b) painful, (c) indifferent. These verge into each other.

Fifth.—We are either in harmony or discord with the things around us. Harmony or agreement with the best is life, peace, success. To actively co-operate with my fellow man in government, business, religion, pleasure, self-improvement is indispensable—and yet such co-operation must be mutual and for the good of all.

Sixth.—There are in myself, and without, material and spiritual; the one subservient to the other.

Seventh.—Humanity is one vast organism—a great person, whose organs are bound together by laws that cannot be broken. To violate the natural rights of any is to introduce discord and to injure another.

Eighth.—I can never be what I ought to be while another is not what he ought to be.

Ninth.—As a humanitarian I ought to refuse to be happy as long as there is any misery or sorrow.

Tenth.—The good in the long run triumphs. "Behind the dim unknown standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."

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THE HOUSEHOLD.

The Kitchen In Summer—How to Give Swell Luncheon Parties—Making Strawberry Preserves.

Warm weather in the kitchen touches upon a wider subject than the mere banishing of dirt from that important apartment and its store places; it includes the introduction of new methods, fresher life and wholesomer food. In summer we have need to be especially watchful of our larders and the food in them. Little carelessnesses which may be of small consequence in cold weather become of great moment in a warm or damp atmosphere. Milk and butter are both notorious for their faculty of absorbing the taste of whatever is placed near to them. Yet unthinking servants put uncooked meat, fish and even vegetables by their side with impunity. Much waste arises because the food thrown away has become "bad" or "sour" through this fault alone.

Soup will keep good for many days in the hottest weather if the simple precaution of warming up be taken every day, and milk that has been boiled will be three days before it turns at all sour. Apropos of milk, however, there is no possible excuse for wasting a single drop, for the uses of stale milk are manifold both in cookery and for house cleaning purposes.

Food often becomes tainted when the weather gives no possible reason for it because the dish or cover that it touches is not clean. A very apparently trifling thing is often enough to spoil a great one; hence the value of a strict daily inspection on the part of heads of households.

Iced dishes must be cold and daintily dished, the decoration being so carefully managed that, though pretty and artistic, it should not give a suggestion of fingering. Overhandled dishes are an abomination never sufficiently to be condemned. The garnish should never set the beholder wondering how it came there. It should be eatable, like the rest of the dish, and should be appetizing. Impossible colors and fantastic shapes should be avoided. No one wishes to set their teeth in a claggy mess of fried gelatin or be rendered apprehensive of sudden death by pink mayonnaise, purple chaufroix, etc., atrocities introduced when the "colored dinner" or lunch was the whim of the moment.

Careful handling is particularly necessary if green salads are to be the delightful, refreshing, wholesome things we expect in warm weather. Try this way of treating lettuce and see what attention to small details will do: Pull the leaves apart, allowing each to remain whole; wash carefully; then let them lie in very cold water for 15 minutes, after which shake the water off each leaf, placing them in a white mosquito netting bag, and hang in the refrigerator, there to drain quite dry and to become still more crisp.

Putting Away Winter Clothing.

In putting away winter clothing, whether it be in the form of personal apparel or household furnishings, such as heavy curtains or bedding, it is necessary for one to exercise the utmost care in order to guard against great loss from the ravages of moths. No trouble, no matter how laborious, should be spared, there being much at stake and the consequences being quite too serious to be trifled with in the very least. Heavy curtains, which are used only in the winter time as a protection, and all superfluous bedding, such as blankets and quilts, should be exposed to the sun and air for a few hours, the curtains being well beaten and freed from all dust and the blankets carefully washed. Then they should be neatly folded, wrapped in large cotton sheets and laid away in the linen press or storeroom, upon substantial shelves, which are clean and dry, accompanied by a goodly supply of camphor.—Good Housekeeping.

A Luncheon Party.

According to The Ladies' Home Journal, it is in better form to have a luncheon served at a large table, especially when the guests do not number more than 20, than to have small tables. Decorate your tables with flowers and have the rooms darkened and the gas lighted. It is not necessary to darken the whole house, but only the room in which the luncheon is served. Two o'clock is the fashionable hour for a luncheon. After it is over the guests usually disperse.

Strawberry Preserves.

A delicious preserve may be made by hulling strawberries that are free from blemish and not overripe and placing them in a porcelain kettle with their weight in white sugar. Allow them to stand overnight and in the morning set them over the range and let them boil steadily for an hour. Not a drop of water should be used. The juice from the berries will furnish all the liquid necessary.

Durable Table Knives.

Prudent housewives are greatly interested in the solid metal table knives, made of silver nickel and said to be the same all the way through. These knives have the appearance of silver and the additional merit of durability

Odd Mention.

The newest in lace curtains is the brussels point, with the open edge pattern.

When making a meat pie, be sure and make a hole in the middle of the pastry on the top.

Every home, however humble, has its chafing dish. The nickel silver, silver soldered ones are coveted affairs.

It is a suggestion from an artist that a landscape, rather than a single figure picture or a portrait, should rest upon an easel.

Live one day at a time. Don't wrinkle your forehead today over tomorrow's cares.

A salad bowl of plain cut crystal, with silver rim and helpers, is decidedly suggestive of the cool, refreshing vegetables served in it.

The new lines of flower tubes and bouquet holders in Bohemian glass and decorated glassware are very popular.

"HANKY PANKY."

A good many years ago I was a rather clever amateur performer of "parlor magic" and, through my liking for it and the purchase of apparatus, became acquainted with a number of professional "magicians," men who in public called their art "prestidigitation" and privately referred to it as "hanky panky." One of the brightest was Charlie Hines, known to the public as Sheik Rustan.

When I first met him, he was accompanied and assisted on the stage by a very pretty woman, "the Princess Gulnare," who in private life had been Mrs. Tom Briggs. The Briggs domestic horizon had been rather confined for her tastes, perhaps a little gloomy by comparison with the footlight world as seen "from the front," but I fancy she was a little disillusioned already when I encountered her.

Mrs. Briggs became Charlie's stage assistant while her husband was away in Mexico as engineer of a railway or mine—I never clearly knew which—and when he learned of it, which was not until several months later, he took the matter so philosophically that it was thought he never would make any trouble about it. He had only expected to be gone ten months when he went away; but, having nothing particular to come back for when his home was broken up, he staid in Mexico nearly two years, and it was only on business accounts that he even then returned. Perhaps he would have gone off again without even thinking of the woman who had dropped out of his life or the man to whom she had dropped had he not taken some trouble making advice from Bacchus and when in a sufficiently ugly mood happened to notice an advertising poster bearing pictures of Sheik Rustan and the Princess Gulnare, then performing in town.

The stage door keeper tried to keep him out, but was promptly knocked down and Mr. Briggs passed triumphant behind the scenes. Almost immediately he caught sight of Charlie on the opposite side of the stage just going on to do the "goldfish trick," and with mischievous quickness put in practice an accomplishment he had acquired among the greasers—the throwing of a bowie knife. Fortunately it was a long throw across the stage, and though the aim was good and the knife flew point foremost in a most viciously businesslike fashion, its force was so far spent by the time the target was reached that when it struck the convex bottom of a heavy goldfish dish in Charlie's breast pocket, it glanced, darted off to one side and stuck quivering in the floor, without doing any more harm than cutting a long gash in the magician's coat. Before Mr. Briggs could do anything more to make himself disagreeable, he was seized, and to avoid scandal quietly put out of the back door, with an admonition to go and sin no more. Charlie and the ex-Mrs. Briggs were very badly scared, and in their excitement frankly told me who the invader was, and the probable reason he might have imagined he had for his rudeness. The amusement season was nearly over, and at my suggestion they secluded themselves until Mr. Briggs went away to Mexico again, which he did without making any effort to hunt them, so far as they knew, and perhaps thought nothing more about them when he became sober. During the three following years we heard no more of Mr. Briggs. Then came a rumor that some jealous Mexican had fatally carved him, and the extreme probability of such a thing, added to its desirability from the point of view held by the Sheik and the Princess, impelled credence in the story.

The Sheik Rustan made a great hit in Deadwood. His new variation upon the old "pistol trick" created a positive furore, for it was in itself really good, and the way he worked up to it greatly increased its effect. When about to perform it, he would expose the two ways in which it was formerly done. In one of those the apparent barrel of the pistol dropped its load into the performer's hand when he pressed a certain spring, and the report when the weapon was fired came from what seemed to be the ramrod socket. The other was effected by the use of bullets formed of plumbago, which were easily crushed by the ramrod in loading, these sham bullets being substituted by sleight of hand for the leaden ones. Having fully explained and illustrated those old ways, Charlie would take apart the pistol he was about to use, pass around separately for inspection its barrel, stock and lock, which would, at his request, be put together by some spectator. Then a handful of solid lead bullets were offered, from which one marked by two or three persons would be dropped by one of them into the barrel on a charge of powder and rammed home. To assure himself that the ramming had been thorough—which, he explained, was essential to his safety—he would press the bullet down firmly with the end of his baton, the pistol still remaining in the hands of the person who loaded it. Finally the holder of the weapon was allowed to fire at him point blank, and he would appear to have caught the marked bullet in his teeth.

He had done the trick successfully at each performance for ten nights. Then his Waterloo came. A big, hirsute cowboy blazed away at him, and his yell of pain mingled with the report of the pistol. The bones of his right wrist had been shattered by the bullet, hopelessly disabling him for life so far as any more "hanky panky" was concerned.

The cowboy went up on the stage and expressed his sympathetic regret for the unfortunate outcome of the trick, but did not deem it necessary to explain that, suspecting the withdrawal of the marked bullet by the baton, he had slyly slipped another into the pistol. And only one spectator, recognizing him, knew it was not an accident. The one was a frightened woman, the Princess Gulnare, peeping out from the "wings" and rasping: "My God! It's Tom Briggs!"

J. H. CONNELLY.

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